



# Neighborhood Planning Assembly All-Wards Meeting – Full Notes

**Date of Assembly:** 4/17/2018

**Start Time:** (Commence): 6:30 PM

**Finish Time:** (Adjourn): 8:40PM

**Location:** Robert E Miller Center (130 Gosse CT.)

**Notetaker:** Nate Orshan

## **Steering Committee Members in Attendance:**

Anne Breña: Ward 1/8

Cindy Cook: Ward 1/8

Linda Deliduka: Ward 4/7

Joe Dery: Ward 5

Alexander Farrell: Ward 4/7

Richard Hillyard: Ward 1/8 - Moderator

Jim Holway: Ward 4/7

James Lockridge: Ward 2/3

Nate Orshan: Ward 5

Tony Redington: Ward 2/3

Charles Simpson: Ward 6

## **Additional People in Attendance:**

Nicole MacKay: Director, CEDO

Phet Keomanyvanh: Community Engagement Specialist, CEDO

Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro: Senior Projects and Policy Specialist, CEDO (SHED)

Stephanie Morse: Projects and Policy Specialist, CEDO

*From the notetaker: These notes should not be construed as a verbatim transcript. I made a good-faith effort to transcribe as best I could and get points recorded as faithfully as possible, but in the process I necessarily had to omit or elide some verbiage.*

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## **(1) Ad Hoc Open Forum**

Charles: (Reads a statement to the effect of, A suggestion to give our support to the new school board.)

Linda: There's community concern about capital school plans. It affects Smith, Champlain, and Edmunds Middle School, but impacts all schools, so you may want to put some time in on future meetings for that.

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**(1) Memorial Auditorium Update, Mayor's Objective re Strengthening Public Engagement, Working to Improve the Roles and Responsibilities of the NPAs  
- Noelle, MacKay, Director CEDO**

**Summary:**

*Noelle shared the status of the Memorial Auditorium project and current process the Administration is using, including developing an adaptive reuse plan, collecting ideas from multiple sources, and completing the work in time for any needed ballot items in November. Many of the steering committee members present expressed grievances with the Administration, including a desire for a different type of leadership from the Mayor, disappointment that NPA leaders weren't respected or taken seriously by the Administration as they organized a public forum re Memorial Auditorium in September 2017, and the need for higher NPA budgets in order to return to a time when consistent microgrants from the NPAs helped to foster greater citizen participation and cohesiveness.*

Noelle MacKay is in CEDO through the end of May.

Noelle: Thanks for inviting me! Here's an update on Memorial Auditorium since last September's All Wards meeting. There were concerns but support from NPAs.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2018

Contact: Noelle MacKay, Director, Community & Economic Development Office

[nmackay@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:nmackay@burlingtonvt.gov)

**CEDO Launches Memorial Auditorium Website, Kicking Off Public Engagement Process as City Determines Future of Historic Public Assembly Space**

**Burlington, VT** – The Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) for the City of Burlington is kicking off a public engagement process to better understand the community's desires for the future of Memorial Auditorium, capturing their priorities for the building's restoration and renewal as the City determines the future of this historic public assembly space

Designed by architect Frank Lyman Austin, the 16,650 square foot Memorial Auditorium was built as a 2,600-person auditorium and civic center to honor World War I veterans. Built in 1927, with the grand opening in 1928, Memorial has hosted public performances, private functions, athletic events, farmers' markets, exhibits, a day care, and a teen center. Over the years it has been managed by hired contractors, Burlington City Arts, and the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department. Many in Burlington and the surrounding area have a favorite memory linked to this building.

Since the 1990s, the City has struggled to keep up with the needed repairs and required updates to the building and its equipment, and Memorial Auditorium was closed to ensure the safety of the public in December 2016. Over the years, many redevelopment concepts and ideas have been considered for Memorial Auditorium and the larger "Gateway Block" (which extends from South Winooski Ave. to South Union Street along Main Street). Thus far, none have proven feasible or garnered sufficient public support to advance.

On December 15, 2017, Mayor Weinberger issued a memorandum to the City Council stating that Memorial Auditorium has had a long history of serving as a valuable community assembly space, and outlined his proposed next steps to bring the building back to life:

- Create an adaptive reuse plan for Memorial Auditorium to remain a publicly-owned, public assembly space with input from stakeholders and members of the public.
- Create conceptual designs, construction pricing, and financing options for this adaptive re-use plan that reflects that feedback and provides details on the cost and possible sources of funds.
- Complete this plan so that it can be considered by the Council for a November 2018 ballot item that would ask voters to approve a bond to support the rehabilitation of the building.

CEDO, taking up this charge from the Mayor, is kicking off a public engagement process, starting by launching a new website (<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Memorial-Auditorium>), allowing visitors to learn about:

- The current process underway for the renewal of Memorial Auditorium and how to get involved.
- The history of Memorial Auditorium, including information on how it has been used and operated in the past.
- The physical condition of Memorial Auditorium and past assessments of required repairs.
- Prior redevelopment concept studies and plans.

CEDO will be posting a schedule on the website for the upcoming public engagement process, as well as on the CEDO Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CEDOBurlington/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CEDOBTV>).

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*April 17, 2018, Press Release from CEDO re Memorial Auditorium*

Many staff were at that meeting. The Mayor wants to have Memorial Auditorium as a public space, especially since Moran fell through and there's no good place for public assemblies. We sat down to figure out how to understand what would be needed to restore Memorial Auditorium.

Jeffrey Glassberg is the consultant we've been working with. We also need understand how it's been operated in the past, the operating costs. A new website is now live (<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Memorial-Auditorium>), check your Front Porch Forum for the announcement.

We also will have a document library and a data repository. We talked with James Lockridge, Parks & Recs folks, and others. Our next step is to start reaching out to folks. We'll publish it and come to NPAs to see which of the generic options might work, for example, event space, public assembly space, teen center, office space, childcare center. We want to lay out what each would cost.

Once we get those generic uses, we'll get an engineer and architect to figure out the costs. We hope to have a price tag in the fall for voters to vote on.

It used to be a \$250,000/year loss when Parks & Rec was running it.

CEDO will look at options for how to pay for building, for example, tax credits. For example, if we really want it as a public space and use tax credits, that might limit what we can do to the top and bottom floor.

We're also looking at other "Memorial Auditorium's around the country to ask what are they are doing, how are they funding, how are they maintaining. We want to have that on the website soon, too.

So current process is:

1. Put the info up.
2. Start gathering input, ranking of options.
3. Then start doing an assessment of that what'll cost.
4. Then bring that before the public.

BCA (?) did some great work once on reimagining the building. For example, moving the loading dock might help operational costs, reducing load-in/out times.

(Hands out press release.)

**Text of Press Release** (Copied from Front Porch Forum Posting):

**Memorial Auditorium Website Launched**

What will the future of Memorial Auditorium look like? What will it be used for and how will it be operated? The City of Burlington is kicking off a public process to determine this.

On December 15, 2017, Mayor Weinberger issued a memorandum to the City Council stating that Memorial Auditorium has had a long history of serving as a valuable community assembly space, and outlined his proposed next steps to bring the building back to life:

- Create an adaptive reuse plan for Memorial Auditorium to remain a publicly-owned, public assembly space with input from stakeholders and members of the public.
- Create conceptual designs, construction pricing, and financing options for this adaptive re-use plan that reflects that feedback and provides details on the cost and possible sources of funds.
- Complete this plan so that it can be considered by the Council for a November 2018 ballot item.

**Text of Announcement:**

CEDO will lead this important initiative to better understand the community's desires for the future of Memorial Auditorium, capturing priorities for the building's restoration and renewal.

Visit our newly launched website (<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Memorial-Auditorium>) to learn about:

- The current process underway for the renewal of Memorial Auditorium and how to get involved.
- The history of Memorial Auditorium, including information on how it has been used and operated in the past.
- The physical condition of Memorial Auditorium and past assessments of required repairs.
- Prior redevelopment concept studies and plans.

Additionally, we have compiled a library of documents and a Frequently Asked Questions section.

We will be posting a schedule on the website (<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Memorial-Auditorium>) for the upcoming public engagement process. Also, look for updates here and on the CEDO Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CEDOBurlington/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CEDOBTV>).

Memorial Auditorium has been part of so many memories in our community. Let's bring our best selves to the public engagement process, working to be inclusive and respectful of the ideas suggested and looking for ways to find resolution on the path forward. Together we can bring new life to, and make new memories in, Memorial Auditorium.

Charles Simpson: Are you in touch with Marcus from (?). He has some info. Also, how about utilizing the roadway and tattoo parlor building/hotel?

Noelle: No plans at this time.

James Lockridge: Does the Mayor have foundational vision for what he wants to emerge? I haven't heard that the Mayor is committed to serving all generations or for it to be inclusive. Will there be an overall vision statement?

Noelle: Read the press release. Some details might come in the next phase. For example, "Are you interested in childcare? Events? Conferences and meetings?"

Linda: Looking at Chittenden County demographics, there are decreasing kids, increasing seniors.

Charles: What about the current Burlington Telecom (BT) equipment?

Noelle: I don't know the details, but I imagine if we renovate, they'll have to get out.

James: Have you done a critical review of management practices over last 20 years? (Suggests that a lack of aptitude on the part of that management is partially responsible.)

Noelle: Some of the lessons are there in interviews we've done.

James: Will the conversation remain in territorial/hierarchical vein or will there be an invitation for conversations with community...a different model than we're used to?

Noelle: We're figuring out how to do both smaller and larger groups.

Tony Redington: I don't understand how you say, "We'll rehab the building," and then say, "After we have the money, then we'll look at programming."

Noelle: If everyone says, "we want non-profit office space," we can look at what the cost to renovate the building is.

Tony: So you'll first find out what the uses will be?

Noelle: Exactly! For example, the first floor could be a lot of things that all have the same code and renovation needs...

Richard: Is there basic maintenance happening now?

Noelle: Yes. For example, there's been work to the roof to make sure it's not leaking. They ARE working on it.

Jim Holway: I'm disappointed. You guys knew this was an issue months before we had a forum. Now you're asking us for ideas. I'm happy to participate, but I'm awfully disappointed. Where was the Mayor then up until you're asking us to come up with ideas of use? So far: the process sucks. I'm waiting for conversation that says we're respected for putting the conversation on the agenda.

Noelle: Several of us were there (at the September meeting) and participated. That helped inform our investigation.

Jim H: I was chair of that committee, and I'm surprised by this evening. At what point was there respect for the NPAs, our long process? THIS process here is indicative of what is wrong.

Noelle: This is the first time I've been invited to an All Wards meeting. I've spoken at other NPAs. For example, you didn't invite any staff to participate in that meeting.

Jim H: That's not true.

Noelle: I never got an invite! We heard how important this was, which got us to the meeting.

Jim H: Re what is wrong with public process, Memorial Auditorium exemplifies this. The relationship with NPAs needs to change. This building we're in (Robert E Miller Center)? A few of us helped design it from being bulldozed over! We do have ideas, but I don't like the idea that I'm coming in surprised about finally moving along.

Tony: For example, re transportation: We participated in residential parking study...fired the consultant...Got involved in Bridge intersection of Colchester & Barrett. Each of those processes involved an advisory committee in which the NPAs

made nominations and were involved that way. You can argue how effective those were, but they DID give grassroots folks in Wards an opportunity to fight. I'd say they rated 7-9 on a 0-10 scale. The question is, Why isn't there a committee of SOME type re Memorial Auditorium? Seems to me we're shut out of this, at least until today. Having an intermediary would help. There is distrust between this administration and the public.

Noelle: We know that no matter how much public process there is, there'll never be enough. You don't know me, but I've run public process all over this state. There IS a level of anxiety and concern. You could not have more dedicated people than you have here. We're hurting everybody by the way we're behaving. Our thought was, we just want to gather the information and put it out there, then have the conversation. We SHOULD have come to you. So how do we get to November? How do we have a timeline to November that works?

Jim H: I agree, you've got some great staff. I've been doing projects for this community since 1987. How to do it better? Since '87, we've had different approaches to the public process. One that works is, we've had reps from each NPAs involved in a committee that walks through the process. In recent years, we've felt that NPAs are just "a part of your checklist". We're not just a group of the city; we're *part* of the City. So please don't treat us like part of the dotted line on the org chart. I don't fault you specifically for the failure on Memorial Auditorium; I've had conversations with the Mayor and his staff.

Noelle: Re how do we do better? A partnership. Early involvement. Thinking about the advisory committee model you've alluded to. Does that capture it?

Jim H: That would go a long way!

James: I want the Mayor to demonstrate, not just in word, but an investment of spirit, his own pride, his leadership. That's the difference from packaging up an adequate ballot item and holding it up for a vote. I'm committed to Memorial Auditorium restoration and long for THAT kind of leadership. I hope he'd be willing to step into that role.

Noelle: Please read the press release! The Mayor IS committed.

James: We're looking ahead to November. I'd like to think that the Administration already feels ownership and finds resources other than just asking from the voters.

Noelle: That'll be part of the whole "how else can we fund that besides just a bond?" part of the process.

James: Will there be a development taskforce?

Noelle: We could? And there might be other ways to do it. That's why we're reaching out across the country.

James: A general collaborative effort would include people from many different directions. We all express interest in improving the process. Might you set in motion an agenda for the Administration to build a template for improving the public process so that there's no guessing what the public wants.

Linda: Did you ask people in the NPAs what works? Not the staff; the NPAs?

Jim H: The NPAs would be a natural place to co-develop this. I've made it clear to Miro's office that we WANT to be engaged. The distrust comes from our NOT being engaged.

Noelle: I can take the info I'm hearing from you tonight and share it.

Jim H: Would it be helpful to have a conversation sometime, for example, looking at the example of this Miller Building?

Noelle: I'm happy to come. I can't say that, by the time I leave, we'll have everything worked out, but I can gather information.

Jim H: I'm saying, as you develop it, include the NPAs.

Noelle: I'm collecting your concerns. There's a vehicle with the handbook, and I'll bring it to the leadership team with my suggestions.

Cindy Cook: We're asking for a mutual, working-together process. This call-and-response thing isn't as effective.

Phet: I inherited that Public Engagement handbook. Yes, regarding building that handbook, I've been informed re what works, what you want to see. Also, regarding my engagement outreach, there are other communities, for example, people with limited English proficiency, people in public housing. How do we get the full diversity of our community?

Tony: In Wards 2/3, we've followed James, who's been a leader. If you're looking to satisfy somebody, satisfy James.

Noelle: Jim's one of the people we've talked to. You will see his thoughts in summary on the website.

James: I reached out to Jeff; Jeff didn't reach out to me.

Noelle: Jim, you were on the list of people to talk with. Maybe the timing wasn't right. (Names a lot of people they spoke with.)

Jim H: I want to add Charles Simpson to the list of people who worked hard on the building! I echo James: In the larger picture, there's a tendency for US to reach out and not vice versa. Part of public process falls apart due to, for example, multiple attempts to reach out to City Hall and then keeping not getting called back.

Noelle: So how do we reach more people?

Linda: We started livestreaming ours. Sometimes 500 views, sometimes 150 views. We're getting people who can't come for one reason or another. Use technology.

Jim H: We used to have a budget; we used to have diversity. Back then, we could do microgrants and, for example, fundraise for a school, which brings in parents.

Linda: The projects were like gardens that involved community people.



Jim H: So our budget is now so small, we can't do the same things.

Noelle: So: the money you had came from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. I have fund knowledge. The money didn't go into City Council funds. Those funds are just too difficult with so many regulations on it, so that it doesn't work to have small, microloans. We've got nonprofits that don't even want to take the money. Meanwhile, Burlington is held up as one of the most community-driven fund allocators!

Linda: The point is, the money the City Council has **isn't** used the way we used to use it by spreading it around the community.

Noelle: David White talked with me about NPA funding; there might be small amount available.

Jim H: I know the history of where it came from. The solution was that the money had to go to the City Council. I now have a tech bill that I've submitted \*16\* times and haven't gotten paid. I'm still out \$400. The point is, the promise was that we'd be able to access City Council's money through our councilors, but the complexity of getting money paid back is a case in point of why that money isn't working! I've gone through councilors multiple times, talked to Brian Lowe, who assured me I'd get paid. Point is: There used to be a history of using the funds for street parties, street cleanups, a dumpster. If we could figure out how to get the money back... When we had our heyday of diversity and engagement, we were able to do things more than just put on snacks. We're reduced to pretty low functioning.

Cindy: We're all on NPAs. It's obviously not the only way to engage the public. Building on things James has said would be a boost of public confidence.

Charles: Re getting information, at "The Future of Memorial" meeting, we had a questionnaire. This was the 3rd of 3 summits we've sponsored (others on open space and housing). After each, we never interfaced with City, no "what did we learn, is there any corrective?" So we should FORMALIZE this: When the NPAs do something like "The future of Memorial Auditorium"...

Noelle: What did I say at Ward 6 meeting? We at CEDO also want to work on Memorial Auditorium. Here's the four to five projects on my desk, and I won't be able to engage till after the fall. What happened is, I was sincere in saying I want to engage and don't have the capacity.

Charles: We responded to the Mayor's effort to privatize it, pass it off to UVM. We were shocked that you guys on your own would be moving public assets to the private. Where's the public interest?

Noelle: That effort was already passed when you guys started. Re the meeting we had at Ward 6, I said, "I agree, here's my timeline."

Jim H: I've suggested multiple times that if you think of us as on the same team, it'll expand your capacity; one of us might pick up this piece or that piece. NPAs are part of the community; why wouldn't you naturally think of reaching out to them? If you look at us as just another organization to work through, you're missing the point. We

are the community. If you don't have capacity, ask us; we're people who know how to reach whatever organization down the street.

Noelle: What's also happening is that we're hearing from other members of the public who don't want to come out. They're end up attacked on Facebook; their businesses will be attacked. That's why we're trying to mix it up. For example, we had a meeting on Bank & Cherry St that came up with a lot of interesting ideas. There was more of a dialog. We are hearing from people that people are afraid to speak up.

Jim H: That's where I think we can work in partnership. Co-invested.

Richard: Where is the Mayor re NPAs?

Noelle: We haven't had time to chat about it. My sense is that we all know that there's trust on all sides that needs to be rebuilt. Before you can work together, you have to trust people.

Nate: Did the increased anger you're talking about in these public meetings play any role in your deciding to take this new opportunity?

Noelle: Yeah, the rancor DID plat a part in my decision. I love the staff, but I've honestly never seen anything like I'm seeing now. The issues that we all are facing are really complex. We've got integration, diversity, aging demographics, early learning initiatives, housing issues. It DOES weigh on me. I hope that whoever follows me, I hope you give 'em a chance, get to know them, see the skill set they have. And re the funding piece: There are small pools of funding in cities that we CAN do if we can figure out across the city what to do with it, filling some of the gaps. We did brainstorm about that. For example, if you said, "We want to do four block parties, or beautification or...", We might be able to brainstorm.

Jim H: What gets people feeling like they're engaging is their being personally involved.

James: I've sought to participate in building social capital to the city to help build the capacity of the city. There's been a disinterest over the years from the Administration. The outcome is a lost opportunity but also a sense of disempowerment and an absence of opportunity from someone who's willing to invest in the community. Re how do we engage the public...you have to WANT to. I've been called names from within the Administration. My response is not to amplify the character of the tone but to suggest that the City get an ombudsperson.

Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro: (Handing out sheet) Go to website for Bank & Cherry conceptual Design Plans! (<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/BTV-Mall-Redevelopment-Process/Bank-Cherry-Streets>) Comments due end of April.

**April 10 2018 - Bank and Cherry Streets Conceptual Design Plans, Public Meeting**

As part of Burlington's ongoing effort to reinvest in our downtown and engage our community, we invite you to learn more about proposed improvements to Bank and Cherry Streets. The City is developing the conceptual designs for the future of Bank and Cherry Streets using the Great Streets Standards for Burlington's Downtown. This is about place, space and designing a downtown for all Burlingtonians.



For more information or questions or comments, visit

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/BTV-Mall-Redevelopment-Process/Bank-Cherry-Streets> Comments Due April 30, 2018

*Handout for "Bank and Cherry Streets Conceptual Design Plans, Public Meeting)*

### (3) NPA Budget Update, Administrative and Additional Issues - Phet Keomanyvanh

#### Summary:

Phet reminded steering committee members that the fiscal year ends in June, so receipts need to be in soon. Budget discussion led to members passing a motion to take a resolution request to every NPA:

"Motion that we ask the Mayor to increase the annual NPA budget to \$2,000 per Ward."

Phet: (Hands out the NPA budget sheet)

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Budget and Expenditures  
 FY 2018: July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018  
 Total NPA Budget: \$3,200  
 Total of each Ward Budget: \$400

Updated 4/13/2018

Ward 1		Ward 8		Ward 2		Ward 3		Ward 4		Ward 7		Ward 5		Ward 6	
Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400	Expense Categories	Budget \$400

Jul-17								Ref 7/26	\$17.35	Ref 7/26	\$17.35				
Aug-17								Adv 8/10	\$ 85.00	Adv 8/10	\$85.00				
Aug-17								Ref 8/23	\$ 10.60	Ref 8.23	\$10.60				
Sep-17	Adv 9/20	\$48.30	Adv 9/20	\$48.30				Ref 9/24	\$6.95	Ref 9/24	\$6.95	Ref 9/22	\$17.62	Adv 9/20	\$48.30
Oct-17								Ref 10/25	\$7.57	Ref 10/25	\$7.57				
Nov-17															
Dec-17															
Jan-18														Ref 2/1/18	\$25.57
Feb-18								Ref 3/28/18	\$13.78	Ref 3/28/18	\$13.78			Ref 4/5/18	\$24.06
Mar-18															
Apr-18	Adv 4/12/18	\$100.00		\$100.00											
Apr-18															
May-18															
Jun-18															
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$148.30	\$148.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$141.25	\$141.25	\$17.62	\$97.93							
<b>Budget Remaining</b>	\$251.70	\$251.70	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$258.75	\$258.75	\$382.38	\$302.07							

NPA funds are only to support related NPA activities- Eligible Expenses Include  
 Food and Refreshments (Ref)  
 Advertisement (Adv)  
 Room and Facilities (Fac)  
 Childcare (Chi)  
 Other (Oth)

Total Expenditures All Wards \$694.65  
 Total Budget Remaining All Wards \$2,505.35

\*For reimbursement, submit a Request for Vendor Payment: NPA Support form along with the expense receipt to Phet Keomanyvanh,

NPA Budget and Expenditures, updated 4/13, 2018

Here is the balance of our budgets. Our fiscal year ends at June, so all receipts need to be in soon. There is a process: we need a vendor request form including having your fellow steering committee members sign off (checks & balances).

There's an average of ~\$1,000 that's unused. Maybe we can ask NPAs that weren't using it or see if we can do a scholarship fund; it's not huge money. If it is a big project, you could also ask for more from City Council.

James: Where do NPAs have an opp to ask for more money? Now's the time for that to happen.

Phet: A lot of the budget discussion starts in the fall when departments discuss what their needs are for next fiscal year. But If we start today, it's in the records that will become public. CEDO manages the money, \$400/Ward.

Charles: Can I make a motion that we pool funds at end-of-year for a scholarship?

Phet: You have to go back to your NPAs to do that.

Jim H: When we ask for money, the pushback is, "You don't spend what you have," and I say, "there isn't enough to do with." So I'd advocate for using the money.

James: This meeting is likely to be our only All Wards before the budget ends. I've seen City Council dispense money in a discretionary measure.

Linda: What's a reasonable amount?

Jim H: I understand your point, and we DO need to force the funds. We keep revisiting it. The question is always, How are you going to show accountability?

Cindy: There's stuff we can do re increasing meeting accessibility, food for people getting there right from work. I don't think we need to come up with a budget; I suggest we pick a number, maybe \$1,000/NPA.

Linda & James: I make a motion that we ask the Mayor of \$1,000/Ward + \$500 technology budget.

(After more discussion, the figure is increased to \$2,000/Ward (a portion for IT, apportion for community engagement).

Phet: Take it back to your NPAs. It'll be in the minutes.

**Motion that we ask the Mayor to increase the annual NPA budget to \$2,000 per Ward.**

(Additional deliberation.)

Motion was approved

Tony asks re Ch 17 streaming.

Jim H: They do have an interest in doing it for ALL meetings, but the City doesn't want to foot the bill for hard lines in all the meeting spaces.

Anne Breña: Is there a way to find out how many people are watching?

Joe Dery: We're doing it in Ward 5 but we don't know.

(Discussion shifts to considering whether to implement a candidates forum in the run-up to the November elections.)

Richard: We started talking in January re engaging State candidates for November.

Tony: AARP does forums. There are other organizations that have both the money and resources to do it, and do it well. It's a huge amount of work. We'd be duplicating something that's being done.

Richard: I'm more supportive of doing something for the City Council races next year.

(We all agree: Don't do a candidate forum for November.)

Cindy: Wards 1 and 8 have issues with student rentals of what used to be family rentals. The request came for us to discuss it. We're looking at creating a workgroup that'd maybe be housed with the NPA and/or others. We'd like to find ways of working with the players. Is there an interest?

Charles: It's a big issue in Ward 6. I've been pushing to have them house more students on-campus. The City's come up with "The Housing Project" to gentrify, re-zone, but put more students, e.g., in the model of Eagle's Landing.

Cindy: I'm just looking for interest. Anybody?

Tony: (Recommends a lawyer who's worked on these issues.)

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Meeting over at 8:40 PM.

<END>